

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A computer ~~readable~~ storage medium having stored thereon computer readable instructions, comprising:

a managed code layer having a speech-related object model comprising objects exposing speech-related members for use by speech-related applications, the speech related applications comprising one or more of speech recognition enabled applications and speech synthesis enabled applications, the speech-related members of the objects used in performing speech processing tasks, comprising one or more of speech recognition and speech synthesis;

wherein the managed code layer also includes a non-speech related object model comprising objects exposing non-speech related members for use by applications to perform non-speech related processing tasks; and

wherein the speech-related object model and non-speech related object model are accessed using accessing techniques that are the same for both object models.

2. Canceled.

3. Canceled.

4.( Currently Amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of claim 1 wherein the non-speech related members exposed by a non-speech related object in the non-speech related object model include methods, properties acted on by the methods, and events triggered by a state of the nonspeech related object.

5. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of claim 4 wherein the speech-related members exposed by a speech-related object in the speech-related object model include methods, properties acted on by the methods, and events triggered by a state of the speech-related object.

6. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of claim 5 wherein the speech-related members and non-speech related members are designed to be specified and invoked in a consistent way.

7. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of claim 1 wherein the speech-related object model includes:

a recognizer object configured to represent a speech recognizer.

8. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of claim 7 wherein the speech-related object model includes:

a grammar object model configured to represent a grammar used by the recognizer object in recognizing speech.

9. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of claim 8 wherein the speech-related object model includes a result object configured to represent a recognition result.

10. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of claim 9 wherein the speech-related object model includes an event handler object configured to handle events generated by the recognizer object.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of claim 7 wherein the recognizer object comprises a local recognizer object controlled by a process that instantiated the local recognizer object.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of claim 11 wherein the recognizer object comprises a system recognizer object shared by multiple processes.

13. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of claim 8 wherein the grammar object comprises a XML-based grammar object having exposed members

accessible to create a grammar using XML expressions.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of claim 8 wherein the grammar object comprises a dictation grammar object representing a dictation grammar.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of claim 8 wherein the grammar object comprises a dynamic grammar object having exposed members accessible to create a dynamic grammar that is dynamically generated at runtime.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of claim 8 wherein the grammar represented by the grammar object has semantic properties associated with rules therein.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of claim 16 wherein the semantic properties are emitted based on one of a plurality of different mechanisms.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of claim 17 wherein the speech-related object model exposes members to provide the semantic properties in a consistent form regardless of the mechanism used to emit the semantic properties.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of claim 1 wherein the speech-related object model comprises a voice object configured to represent a speech synthesizer.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of claim 19 wherein the voice object exposes members accessible to call a synchronous speak operation and a non-synchronous speak operation.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of claim 19 wherein the speech-related object model includes exposed members accessible to specify a synthesizer based on voice characteristics.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of claim 19 wherein the speech-related object model includes a voice attributes object representing attributes of a synthesized voice.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of claim 19 wherein the speech-related object model includes a synthesis event handler configured to handle events generated by the voice object.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of claim 1 wherein the speech-related object model includes a first grammar object representing a first grammar and a second grammar object representing a second grammar and wherein the first grammar has a rule that refers to a rule in the second grammar.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~readable~~ storage medium of claim 24 wherein the speech related object model includes a grammar maintenance component that updates the first grammar when the referred to rule in the second grammar changes.

26. (Currently Amended) An object model on a computer storage medium, comprising:  
a set of speech-related objects exposing members, accessible by applications that target managed code to perform speech-related tasks, wherein the exposed members are accessible to perform at least one of speech recognition tasks and speech synthesis tasks, and wherein the exposed members are accessible using techniques that are the same as techniques used to access members exposed by non-speech related objects in a platform that contains the speech-related objects.

27-29. Canceled.

30. (Currently Amended) The object model of claim 26 wherein the speech-related objects include a dynamic grammar object that exposes members accessible to implement a dynamic

First Named Inventor: Philipp H. Schmid

Application No.: 10/772,096

-6-

grammar.